

Appl. No. : 10/007,642
Filed : November 6, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An integrated emergency medical transportation database system having a billing modifier module, the system comprising:

a medical emergency database configured to store at least clinical encounter information, ~~patient demographic data~~ and transport information, wherein the transport information is associated with the clinical encounter information by at least including a location of a patient medical emergency; and

a billing modifier module, ~~wherein the billing modifier module accesses a configured to access the~~ clinical encounter location stored in the medical emergency database and ~~compares~~ configured to compare the clinical encounter location to a list of geographic areas, and ~~wherein~~ further configured so that the result of the comparison ~~causes is used to determine at least one billing modifiers modifier to be determined and~~ applied to the medical charges associated with the medical emergency.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the list of geographic areas comprises a ZIP code list.

3. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein ~~two or more~~ the billing modifier is a plurality of billing modifiers and the billing modifiers are applied.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 3, wherein the billing modifiers are multiplicative.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the billing modifier is based on a metropolitan statistical area.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 5, wherein the metropolitan statistical area is determined by the federal government.

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7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the billing modifier is based on a geographic practice cost index.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein the geographic practice cost index is determined by the federal government.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the billing modifier provides rural transportation providers a financial advantage to offset low volumes of work.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 1, additionally comprising a billing module in communication with the medical emergency database, the billing module receiving data from the billing modifier module.

11. (Currently amended) A method of billing modification for an integrated emergency medical transportation database system, the method comprising:

collecting at least clinical encounter information, ~~patient demographic data~~ and transport information into a medical emergency database, wherein the transport information is associated with the clinical encounter information by at least including a location of a patient medical emergency;

accessing a the clinical encounter location stored in the medical emergency database; and

comparing the clinical encounter location to a list of geographic areas;

~~wherein the result of the comparison causes~~ determining a billing modifier based on the comparison; and

~~to be determined and applied~~ applying the billing modifier to the medical charges associated with the medical emergency.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the list of geographic areas is determined by the federal government.

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13. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clinical encounter information is indicative of medical transportation.

14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the clinical encounter information is indicative of medical transportation.

15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein two or more billing modifiers are applied.

16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the billing modifiers are multiplicative.

17. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the billing modifier is based on a metropolitan statistical area.

18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the billing modifier is based on a geographic practice cost index.

19. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clinical encounter location is a location remote from the location of the office of the patient's primary care physician.

20. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the billing modifier module is further configured to calculate one or more enhancement factors based on the clinical encounter location and to apply the one or more enhancement factors to the medical charges.

21. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the transport information comprises airborne emergency vehicle data.

22. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the transport information comprises patient pickup data used for purposes of billing.

23. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the location of the patient medical emergency includes geolocation coordinates.

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24. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the comparison includes indexing into a geographic area with geolocation boundaries.

25. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the medical emergency database is associated with an emergency medical transportation entity.

26. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the determining is done via calculation.

27. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the clinical encounter location is a location remote from the location of the office of the patient's primary care physician.

28. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein determining the billing modifier comprises calculating one or more enhancement factors based on the clinical encounter location.

29. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein applying the billing modifier to the medical charges associated with the medical emergency comprises applying the one or more enhancement factors to the medical charges.

30. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the transport information comprises patient pickup data used for purposes of billing.

31. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the comparing includes indexing into a geographic area with geolocation boundaries.

32. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the medical emergency database is associated with an emergency medical transportation entity.

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33. (New) An integrated emergency medical transportation database system having a billing modifier module, the system comprising:

a medical emergency database configured to store at least clinical encounter information and transport information, wherein the transport information is associated with the clinical encounter information by at least including a location of a patient medical emergency; and

a billing modifier module configured to access the clinical encounter location stored in the medical emergency database and configured to compare the clinical encounter location to a list of geographic areas, and further configured so that the result of the comparison is used to determine at least one enhancement factor to be applied to the medical charges associated with the medical emergency.